



HISTORIC ST. MARY'S MISSION, INC. MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of Historic St. Mary's Mission, Inc. is to provide and promote a cross-cultural, trans-generational, educational experience for students, historians, travelers, and for our local communities. Historic St. Mary's Mission, Inc., a non-profit corporation, continually strives to strengthen ties with, and acknowledges its roots in American Indian culture; improve the local economy through tourism, while preserving the area's delicate past for future generations.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, St. Mary's Mission is a cultural and historical icon of the early days in the American West. The Mission speaks to guests of a time when life was much different. Visitors can feel the past meld with the present. They are transformed by visiting the chapel and Fr. Ravalli's cabin and pharmacy. They experience a reverent silence when stepping into the Salish lodge. By strolling the grounds visitors allow the valley and all of its splendor to encompass them. St. Mary's Mission is a treasure, not just to Stevensville, Ravalli County and to Montana, but to our nation as well. It represents the first pioneer settlement in the state as well as the first church in the Northwest. It truly is "Where Montana Began".

Historic St. Mary's Mission reaches people of many communities, states and countries. The mission/museum complex showcases an important piece of Native American and Montana history, and draws a diverse audience. A volunteer staff conducts tours for elementary and high school students, as well as other visitors to the site. For many of them, this is their first insight into the historical, and so often magical, past of Montana. It is living history touching people in a way few things can.

BRIEF BACKGROUND OF HISOTRIC ST. MARY'S MISSION, INC.

- Bitter Root Valley-Homeland of the native Salish Indians
- 1805: Sept. 4-Lewis and Clark Expedition meet Salish at Ross Hole
- 1816-1820-Iroquois Indians, Hudson's Bay Co. trappers introduce Christianity to Salish
- 1831-1839-Four deputations by Indians to St. Louis to request "Black Robe" as teachers
- 1840-Capt. William Clark signed visa for Fr. Pierre DeSmet to travel to this territory
- 1841, Sept. 24-Establishment of first St. Mary's Mission by Fr. Pierre Jean DeSmet, S.J.
- 1845-Fr. Peter Zerbanatti drowned in Bitter Root River
 - Replaced by Fr. Anthony Ravalli, S. J.
- 1850-Mission properties sold to Major John Owen, Mission closed
- 1864-Town of Stevensville plotted
- 1866-Jesuits return to St. Mary's with Fr. Joseph Giorda serving as superior
 - New Chapel built by Fr. Giorda, Fr. Ravalli, Brother Claessens
- 1877-Nez Perce Indians travel through Bitter Root Valley "Plight of the Nez Perce"
- 1884, Oct. 2-Death of Fr. Ravalli, buried in St. Mary's Cemetery
- 1888-Residence of St. Mary's moved to Missoula
- 1891, Oct. 11-Salish Indians, under Chief Charlot, removed to Jocko Reservation
- 1893-Montana Legislature split Missoula County and named southern portion after Fr. Ravalli
- 1888-1908-Jesuits visit and attend to congregation at St. Mary's
- 1889-Montana becomes 41st state
- 1899-Town of Stevensville is incorporated
- 1908-St. Mary's comes under charge of pastor of St. Francis in Hamilton
- 1911, Oct. 11-Salish Pilgrimage to "Old St. Mary's", beginning of annual event
- 1921-Old St. Mary's becomes diocesan parish
- 1941, Aug. 17-Thousands gather for Centennial Celebration of founding of St. Mary's
- 1954- New St. Mary's Parish Church built
- Next 30 years local community members strive to preserve the integrity of the historic chapel
- 1970, Oct. 6-St. Mary's Mission assigned to the National Register of Historic Places
- Concentrated efforts of Lucylle Evans, Mary Vandehey, Martha Burke in fund raising and restoration
- 1973-1975-Inerior of chapel and residence restored
- 1975- Fr. Ravalli's house and pharmacy restored; funded by MT St. Pharmaceutical Assn.
- 1976-Publication of *St. Mary's in the Rocky Mountains* by Lucylle H. Evans
- 1981-Publication of *Good Samaritan of the Northwest* by Lucylle H. Evans
- 1983-Catholic Diocese of Helena, Montana and local parish relinquish all financial responsibility to St. Mary's Mission board of directors
- 1983-Local fundraising, restoration begins on exterior of historic buildings
- 1987-Certificate of Survey completed designating property lines of Mission grounds
- 1987-Montana Arts Council grant obtained to restore Chief Victor's Cabin
- July 1, 1988- Non-profit 501(c)(3) status issued to Historic St. Mary's Mission, Inc.
- Nov. 1988-Montana Centennial Kickoff Celebration held in Stevensville
- Sept. 1991-DeSmet Park dedication/celebration of 150th Anniversary of Fr. DeSmet's arrival
- 1996-St. Mary's Visitor Center built with Travel Montana grant and matching funds
- 1999, Dec. 17 -Death of historian and benefactor, Lucylle H. Evans
- 2000-Bequeath from Lucylle Evans estate, \$10,000 and Montana history book collection
- 2005 Father Ravalli inducted into Gallery of Outstanding Montanans, State Capitol
- 2005-Relative of Fr. Ravalli, Carlo Ravalli and wife Cristina visit from Ferrera, Italy
- 2005-Salish Pilgrimage, dedication of statues honoring Salish leaders and pioneer missionaries
- 2006-Friends of the Mission established to raise funds for preservation of Mission building
- 2008 Indian Education for All Grant award
- On going fundraising for preservation and restoration work

HISTORIC ST. MARY'S MISSION, INC.

MYTH vs FACT

MYTH: The Catholic Church controls the operation of Historic St. Mary's Mission (Mission) as a tourist attraction.

FACT: Historic St. Mary's Mission, Inc. is not controlled by the Catholic Church. It is an independent non-profit organization qualified to receive tax deductible contributions. It is governed by its board of directors independent of the Catholic Church. Its purpose is to preserve the history of the first interaction between the Salish peoples and the "Black Robes", and to educate the public regarding that historic merging of human cultures. Most of the services employed in its work are done by volunteers from the surrounding community.

MYTH: St. Mary's Mission is run by the State of Montana.

FACT: Historic St. Mary's Mission receives no state or federal funding. It is, however, listed in the National and State Register of Historic Places. The Mission seeks the advice and consultation of state and local historical societies and tribal bodies.

MYTH: The Mission is financially supported by a foundation or endowment.

FACT: Currently, St. Mary's Mission receives no recurring endowments or grants that covers operating expenses. Grant applications are submitted to foundations, state and government agencies, etc. for specific restoration and preservation projects. Grant monies are awarded on a case by case basis.

MYTH: The Mission buildings and grounds look beautiful so they must have plenty of funds for upkeep.

FACT: Preservation and upkeep of the Mission grounds, historic buildings and the artifacts they contain are an ongoing expense. They include many factors such as utilities, insurance, materials and skilled people to accomplish, repair and maintain the structures and grounds. Many tasks are performed by volunteers with a budget set by the board of directors.

MYTH: The Mission has an adequate and well-paid staff.

FACT: There is only one paid staff person whose salary computes to below minimum wage.

MYTH: You have to be Catholic or local to volunteer at the Mission.

FACT: Anyone who is fulfilled by reaching out to the community, enjoys Native American history, Montana history, or the beautiful setting and are interested in sharing their talents are welcome to volunteer at the historic site. The operation of the Mission Complex is dependent upon volunteers. Additional volunteers are needed and welcome.

MYTH: The funds from tour fees and gift shop sales are adequate to meet the Mission's operating costs.

FACT: Historic St. Mary's Mission operates at a deficit even though a modest tour fee is charged for tours and the Gift Shop offers educational and unique items for sale.

MYTH: The history of the founding of the Mission and its role as the first pioneer settlement in the state is well known to all Montanans.

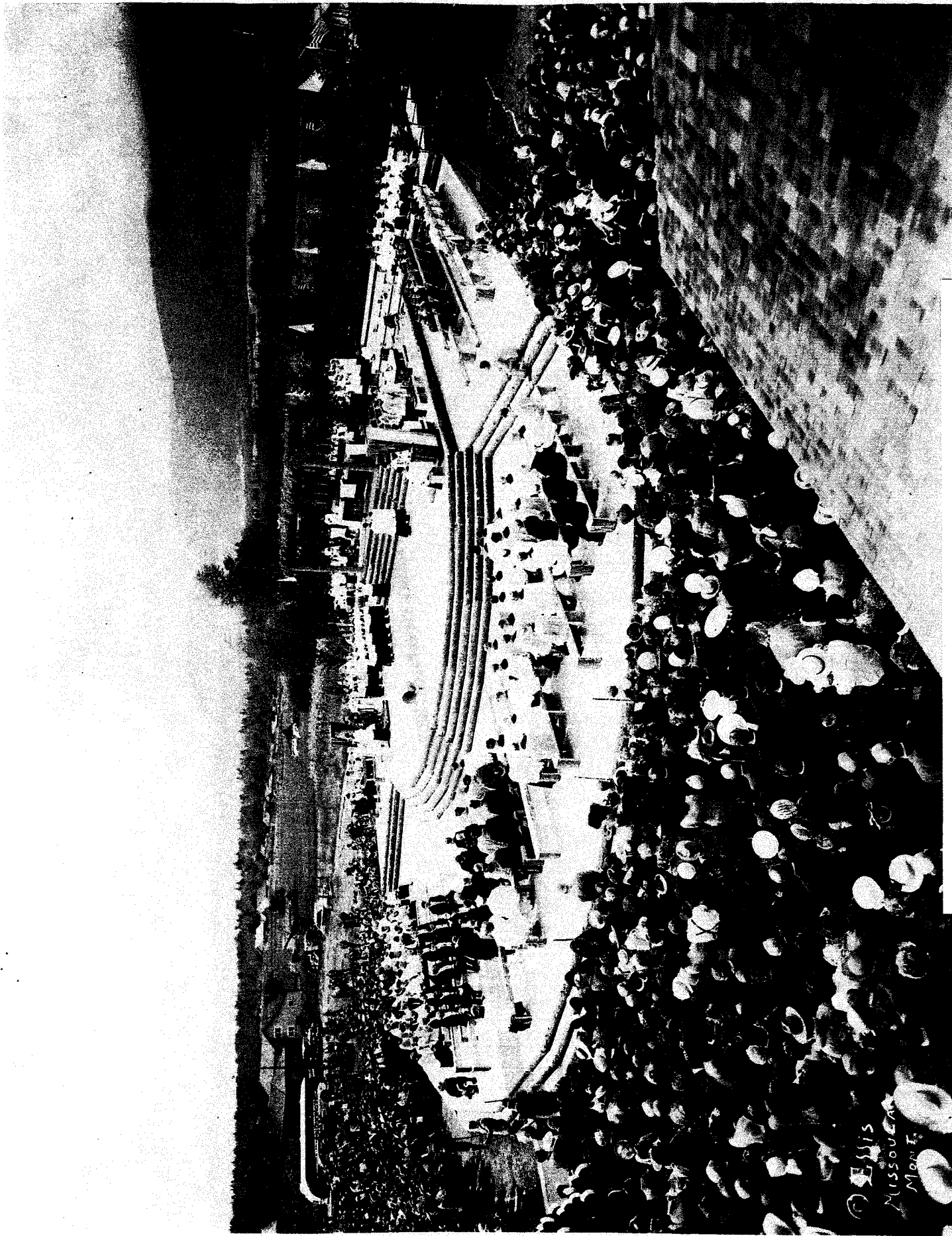
FACT: Classes from near-by school districts come to the Mission and museum for historical tours. A large percentage of visitors are from other states and countries. Many Montanans, even those who are local, have not visited St. Mary's Mission and are not aware of the significant historical, educational, cultural, and artistic effects of the site.

There are several ways to support Historic St. Mary's Mission.

- Become a Mission volunteer
- Membership in the Friends of the Mission
- Give a unique birthday or anniversary gift with a Gift Membership
- Membership in the \$2 a Month Club
- Memorials made in the name of a loved one
- Planned Giving through Endowments
- IRA Roll-overs
- Donations
- Pay the registration fee for the "Cross on a Hill" Mission Brand
- Shop in the Mission Gift and Book Store, featuring Made in Montana Gifts
- Play Cow Pie Bingo in June
- Visit the Mission

All donations to Historic St. Mary's Mission, Inc. are tax deductible.

Be sure to bring your family and friends to Historic St. Mary's Mission for a tour and recommend to other folks, groups or societies that they do so too. Return visitors remark on how they learn something different each time they visit. St. Mary's Mission and Museum showcase an important piece of Native American and Montana history. For many people, this is their first insight into the historical and so often magical past of Montana. It is living history touching them in a way few things can. Please help sustain the early beginnings of this treasured piece of Montana history.



**St. Mary's One Hundred Year
Celebration 1941**

St. Mary's
Missouri
Mem. I.

MONTANA'S BEST KEPT SECRET HISTORIC ST. MARY'S MISSION

St. Mary's Mission was founded in 1841 by Fr. Pierre DeSmet at the request of the Salish Indians living in the Bitter Root Valley. There are a remarkable number of "firsts" for Montana as a result.

First occurrences in Montana include:

- **Indians inviting white man into their world**
- **First of many missions in the Pacific Northwest**
- **First vehicles-3 carts and 1 wagon transported missionary supplies**
- **First pioneer settlement**
- **First cattle-"Cross on a Hill" brand**
- **First swine raised**
- **First poultry raised**
- **First gardens planted**
- **First apple orchard planted**
- **First wheat planted and harvested**
- **First irrigation water developed**
- **First gristmill**
- **First sawmill**
- **First clapboard buildings built**
- **Fr. Anthony Ravalli- Montana's first doctor and pharmacist**
- **First infirmary**
- **First ride-up pharmacy**
- **First legal conveyance of property**
- **First Salish dictionary written**
- **First classes (the three R's) taught in the Salish language**
- **First organized band**
- **Fr. Giorda-First Chaplain of 1866 Montana Territorial Legislature**
- **Site of the Montana Statehood Centennial Kickoff Celebration**

BITTERROOT WOODWRIGHT

Christopher Weatherly

P.O. Box 565, Stevensville, MT. 59870 406-777-3546 cell: 406-531-6337 e-mail: cw@kootenai.myrf.net

Historic Restoration, Remodeling, Fine Architectural Woodworking

Independent Contractor, Licensed, Bonded and Insured

Historic St. Mary's Mission, Inc. Maintenance and Project Estimate January 12, 2009

1. Electrical wiring upgrade/all historic buildings	\$ 2,000.00
2. Replace rotten log in Chapel	2,500.00
3. Repair rotting spots in logs as needed/all historic buildings	1,200.00
4. Seal upward-facing checks in logs as needed	1,150.00
5. Repair/attach siding and trim work as needed	825.00
6. Scrape, prime, paint windows, doors, Chapel Façade, Bell Tower as needed	1,575.00
7. Re-glaze/replace cracked windows in Chapel and Chief Victor's Cabin	1,050.00
8. Drill vent holes in Chapel foundation	175.00
9. Repair varmit/rodent screening on foundations	225.00
10. Repair loose chinking as needed	425.00
11. Coat of linseed oil mix in next 2 years on all historic buildings	2,690.00
12. Replace lighting in Chief Victor's Cabin	1,500.00
13. Build stands for donated display cases	750.00
14. Replace wall board and wall paper as needed/all historic buildings	850.00
15. Add rock facing to cover foundations/all historic buildings	2,750.00
16. 3 outdoor electrical power source units-necessary for fund raising events	3,000.00
17. Replace DeSmet Park fence	7,500.00
18. Upgrade underground sprinkler system	2,750.00
19. Upgrade informational signage	250.00
20. Plumbing repair in Visitor Center	250.00
21. Repair ceiling tile/paint damage from plumbing leak	250.00
22. Replace 13 year-old carpet in Visitor Center/Museum/Library/Art Gallery	6,500.00
23. Enlarge Salish Encampment landscape-funded in part by Indian Ed for All grant	7,500.00
23. Replicate log barn (see photo on next page)	<u>33,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$80,665.00

